

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 13, Autumn 2006

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

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CRY FREEDOM:

Beating the drum for Srila Prabhupada in South Africa

Also in this issue:

GBC crash in official debate

The biggest "guru" in ISKCON

ISKCON secularisation continues

The secret of success



Iskcon Revival Movement

The need of the hour is knowledge - not bricks



BACK TO PRABHUPADA

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Welcome to Issue 13 of *Back to Prabhupada (BTP)*.

In the last BTP editorial we explained the IRM's emphasis on preaching the truth about Srila Prabhupada, and why book distribution has no meaning unless this truth about Srila Prabhupada's position is established first. The facts regarding why this must be done as a matter of utmost urgency and importance are clear, and are as follows.

Since 1978, under the guru hoax program, over 200 million books have been distributed, and even though this distribution has greatly diminished, book distribution still continues today at the rate of around 3 million books a year, according to ISKCON's *World Sankirtan Newsletter*. In addition, there are a few hundred temples, preaching centers, *Nama-hatta* groups and cell programs spread across the globe. The aim of all this activity and organisation is to bring people into contact with ISKCON, so that they can subsequently be cheated by being handed over to one of the 80 impostor "gurus". In sum, there is a huge effort being made to help perpetrate the guru hoax, delivering many people every year down a false path away from Srila Prabhupada. Thus a major anti-Prabhupada program, done insidiously in Srila Prabhupada's name, currently pervades the whole planet. Hence, there are probably hundreds of thousands of individuals out there who have been so duped. And this number increases every year. These devotees genuinely want to follow Srila Prabhupada, and they sincerely think they are doing so, but instead they are being horribly cheated, with the net result that their spiritual life is destroyed. To help all those being cheated is therefore clearly a major task, requiring professional organisation, full-time commitment, and in one

sense, has only just begun. And it is to execute this mammoth task that the IRM exists. For given this situation, if the IRM does not bring the truth to, and help, all these many thousands of souls, WHO will? Thus, we are presently in a very specific situation, with this huge preaching task currently before us being the need of the hour over and above anything else. Given this fact, it would therefore be very uncompassionate on our part to abandon all these countless souls who are being led away from Srila Prabhupada, with the IRM instead being diverted into only establishing a few temples in one corner of the world, catering just to the local public.

Hence to focus only on making a small, separate, localised movement whilst mass-scale deception in Srila Prabhupada's name is continuing, and all the souls affected by this deception are suffering, is not the best course of action. To go all out and fight on Srila Prabhupada's behalf, exposing the monstrous guru hoax and cheating of the public going on, restoring Srila Prabhupada's true position and helping the thousands of souls being thus deceived - is. So let us work to please Srila Prabhupada by serving him in this way, and in turn achieve his mercy, for without obtaining the mercy of the Guru, it is not possible to advance in *bhakti-yoga* (devotional service). Such mercy can not come from participating, either directly, in the hijacking of Srila Prabhupada's name and movement and cheating of all the devotees; OR indirectly, by not vigorously opposing this hijacking and cheating, concentrating instead only on establishing buildings, rather than the knowledge about Srila Prabhupada's glorious position.

However, if we work to defend and re-establish the truth about Srila Prabhupada and his

real teachings, and bring all those being deviated in his name back to Srila Prabhupada, we have a chance at obtaining such mercy, and thus achieving *bhakti*. As we mentioned in a previous BTP editorial:

"The acarya, the authorized representative of the Supreme Lord, establishes these principles, but when he disappears, things once again become disordered. The perfect disciples of the acarya try to relieve the situation by sincerely following the instructions of the spiritual master."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 4.28.48, purport)

Hence we are trying as fast as possible to distribute *The Final Order* and *BTP* in many languages all over the world to assist the process of relieving the disorder which has been created in the wake of Srila Prabhupada's departure. If we do not directly participate in this knowledge distribution, we indirectly contribute to the current disorder, by not actively doing anything to rectify it. Thus, our success in pleasing Srila Prabhupada cannot currently be a question of how many followers we have, or how much real estate and money we have accumulated, but rather of how much we are following Srila Prabhupada as his perfect disciples, by trying to relieve the disorder created since his disappearance. And once all this disorder is relieved, Srila Prabhupada's real movement, with him as the sole *diksa* Guru, will once again automatically expand in leaps and bounds all over the world, just as it did previously from 1966 to 1977.

Please feel free to write to me at the following address if you have any questions, criticisms or comments: irm@iskconirm.com.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant



Letters to the editor

“Please keep up your good work of exposing the philosophical corruption of the ISKCON misleaders. Better if they just take a mundane job in the world than pose themselves as spiritually advanced personalities. Hare Krsna! Sincerely”

- Krsna-Balarama Swami, New York, USA

“Thank you friends for the good works you are doing. I am a technical university graduate (Russia), translator dept. Hope to be able to input towards the IRM.”

- Velde Vilis, Riga, Latvia

“Pamho! We have a local saying that says: ‘There is much to see when the snow has melted.’ AGTSP!”

- Jarle Monstad, Kalanseisel, Norway

“I have 2 books, ‘Coming Back’ and ‘Intro to Bhagavad Gita’. They are my spiritual life guide (on the material and wild world). Thank you so much for the BTP mag. Best regards from Istanbul and happy new year.”

- Fatima Yurt, Istanbul, Turkey

“You are wonderful!”

- Ramai Devi Dasi, Moundsville, USA

“PAMHO. The magazines are really an eye opener! Please send me more.”

- Andrew Garingo, Imus, Philippines

“All I want to say is....THANK YOU!!!”

- Gerry McConnell, Derry City, UK

“Dear devotees, I am so glad to read your booklet, I am such a low sudra without education or practice but the only true shelter I have felt in my life has come from Prabhupad’s books. He remains my only true leading light, without Prabhupad’s books I know I would be completely lost. The demons I have struggled with would have crushed me by now, this thread of knowledge and truth has been my only lifeline. I praise you all in your devotion. Hare Krishna! Your servant”

- Seamus Carroll, London, UK

“I have received 3 or 4 of your magazines and would very much

appreciate a copy of TFO. This time I include a \$20 donation in hopes Laxmi devi blesses me with this good knowledge. Hari bol! Your servant at the lotus feet of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.”

- Michael Shea, Los Angeles, USA

“I appreciate your work. I would like to see ISKCON as the organization led by Srila Prabhupada forever, not by insane paranoids. Thank you.”

- Yashvanth YP, Bangalore, India

“Hare Krishna prabhu, I recently received your Back To Prabhupada. I was very happy to hear that you are doing something for my Gurudeva whom they have illegally removed from ISKCON. I will help and do anything for my spiritual master. Only I want to see my guru back, as the guru in Iskcon. There so many false gurus.”

- Merumala Dasi, Florida, USA

“I would love to receive a copy of TFO. I am needing to understand the truth about Srila Prabhupada’s desires for Iskcon. Please help me. Hare Krsna!”

- Joshua Gilliam, Alabama, USA

“My humble obeisances unto you. You are doing such a great work by keeping Srila Prabhupada’s words and desires, and Prabhupada will be pleased by your work. Krsna and Srila Prabhupada give you strength to carry out this IRM and BTP magazine. Hare Krsna.”

- BR Tejus Kumar, Bangalore, India

“I want to know more about Srila Prabhupada and facts. Thank you for sending this magazine.”

- Umesh Y Pattar, Bangalore University, Bangalore, India

“Dear Sir, out of observation I feel that it’s very much necessary that the Iskcon centre in Tirupati deserves to be closely watched by IRM.”

- KV Prasad, Hyderabad, India

“It was Iskcon which showed me the path of Hare Krsna. When I came to know about IRM, I didn’t take a serious note, as my faith in Iskcon was equivalent to God. But

somewhere down the line I had a mischievous feeling for some of the guys of Iskcon. But thinking it to be an offence I abandoned all thoughts. Now that I have read BTP I am shocked and bewildered. I am in dilemma. But my gut feeling says that IRM is true. I think Srila Prabhupada is indirectly propagating IRM. It would be a great honour for me if I could help you out in any way. Srila Prabhupada ki Jai!”

- Kumar Abhjaj, Uttranchal, India

“IRM is doing the perfect job by disclosing the facts of Iskcon and the purpose behind it as per Srila Prabhupada’s desire.”

- Rajeshwari Gandhad, Bangalore, India

“The arguments placed in BTP are logical and convincing.”

- M Eashwar, Tamil Nadu, India

“I am impressed to know the efforts of IRM. I will be very glad to know of work and results of IRM in future too.”

- Srideva Haridas, Andhra Pradesh, India

“The magazine is excellent, enlightenment, updates and information regarding Iskcon. IRM is doing excellent work. Please keep it up”

- Sharad H Pandit, Nairobi, Kenya

“Please accept my humble obeisances and all glories to AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. I have read BTP magazine regularly and am interested. I am working with Iskcon.”

- K Chakradhar, Secunderbad, India

“When I first read your book I was really surprised to see such a wonderful content about guru hoax which directly points out the real truth about the disciples of Prabhupada. I still want to know more about what Prabhupada actually expressed and wanted. So kindly send me a copy of TFO immediately as soon as possible.”

- Girish K, Mysore, India

“I’m a Prabhupada disciple and I was initiated by him in Mayapur Dham in March 1977. I saw him only 4 times and I never had a real chance to pursue what his will demanded. And now after 30 years I

would like to know the truth about his teachings and make it up. Radhe, Radhe!”

- Bhadravati Devi Dasi, Roma, Italy

“Thank you very much for publishing BTP. I’m happy and grateful to be part of IRM and will assist to reinstate Srila Prabhupada as the only guru and bring back Iskcon to its past glories. Hari Bol.”

- Raj Patel, Assam, India

“I like this mag very much.”

- K P Das, Bangalore, India

“Hare Krsna Prabhu, I want to wish success to the IRM movement all over the world.”

- Jyotirmoy Banerjee, Kolkata, India

“I am not sure yet what to think but I am interested in studying your arguments in more depth.”

- Vasile Stanesco, California, USA

“Haribol prabhus! Thank you for writing to me and pointing out some of the flaws apparent in ISKCON since 1977. I have no problems with ISKCON devotees (or ISKCON if it is being run as you say Srila Prabhupada wanted it running). I love association with the devotees, chanting and reading Prabhupada’s books. I follow all of the regulative principles, but have always been worried about who would be a suitable spiritual master - who can be as good as Prabhupada for my spiritual well-being? There certainly can’t be 80 such people can there? I realise my neophyte status does not allow me to fully decide one way or the other at the moment so I will carry on following Prabhupada and looking at both sides of the ritvik/diksa debate. All I can say is that all of the fallen gurus there have been speaks volumes about some inherent problem in the movement. Thank you again for seeking me out and providing me with Back To Prabhupada literature. Please send me a Final Order book.”

- Bhakta Mick, Derbyshire, UK

“Raising some very interesting points. Hope things come right.”

- Ram Das Ramlakan, Isipingo, South Africa

Letters to the editor *(continued from page 3)*

"Thanks for your magazine and it's good to know what's happening after Srila Prabhupada departed, and what is really necessary to understand and what is false!! Great job..hope no offences..to anybody in ISKCON."

- Sudha Nitai Das, Bangalore, India

"I just want to know the real truth, nothing else but the truth. Thank you and Hare Krsna. Jai Prabhupada!"

- Ranjit Singh, Singapore

"1) Wish you & IRM fraternity a happy and prosperous new year

2) Thank you very much for sending me a copy of BTP

3) May Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada bless you all to fulfill the goal of IRM. Thanking you."

- GD Tekele, Milon Keynes, UK

"Thank you very much for a nice edition of BTP. Prabhupada himself said that there is no difference between him and his instructions. So we must follow him by following his instructions. Hope you continue this great work and take the entire Iskcon world Back To Prabhupada. Hare Krsna."

- Shiva Kumar S, Bangalore, India

"I think Iskcon should be run under Srila Prabhupada because he has struggled alot and has established 108 Iskcon temples throughout the world and made it international."

- K N Patel, Vadodara, India

"Your Srila Prabhupada publication is wonderful and reminds us about our duties."

- Vishwanath Kedia, Mumbai, India

"Srila Prabhupada established ISKCON with a great dedication so it should continue as desired by him and run for a good cause."

- J K Tripathi, New Dehli, India

"IRM is real mirror which shows the clear picture. Whereas others make us fools."

- M K Maharaja, Jammutawi, India

"Thanks for doing this wonderful work."

- Mr Y. Naidoo, Gauteng, South Africa

"Take comfort in the fact that similar 'wrong doings' happen in other organizations."

- Mrs J Buxey, Middlesex, UK

"It's wonderful, with all those devotees from all over the world writing their comments!"

- Jatayu Das, Vienna, Austria

"It is universally known that Srila Prabhupada is the founder of Iskcon so all these wrangles are uncalled for and the society should be run the way he instructed. No more, no less."

- Waga Patrice, Kisumu, Kenya

"I'm forever indebted to all you good devotees for enlightening us on the real teachings of Srila Prabhupada. May the devotees be victorious over the demons who have infiltrated our Iskcon. Hari Bol."

- Mr Gopi, Durban, South Africa

"I like Iskcon to be run as Srila Prabhupada desired. I got one magazine, I am so happy."

- Mr Tarakanta Mohalik, Balasore, India

"Wonderul, courageous action. I am proud of the BTP team for their integrity and honesty."

- Sreejith U, Cochin, India

"I agree with this Iskcon Revival Movement and I think that it is the best way for preaching Krsna Consciousness."

- Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Punjab, India

"I love your topics and would like to revive my temple here. Send me all books that has to do with this revival, I want to be on the right path about our jagad Guru. Dandavat Pranams."

- Tamal Krishna Das, Radha Govinda temple, Apapa Lagos, Nigeria

"I am very much confused about what the Iskcon leaders are doing. Please guide me."

- Kuldeep, Toronto, Canada

"Haribol! AGTSP! This makes 'your ever well-wisher' heartbreaking!"

- Elizabeth Goodyer, Ontario, Canada

"Definitely Srila Prabhupada must be the only guru for Iskcon. Without that the movement can

not be successful at all. At present all these gurus should come to a comprehensive understanding and should admit that Srila Prabhupada is the only guru."

- Chiranjit Das, Bangalore, India

"We want to have knowledge regarding Iskcon to become correct devotees."

- Ravi Agarwal, Mumbai, India

"Read the magazine, would like to read TFO see what it has to say. Interested in anything if done in the mood of trying to bring devotees together."

- Gadai Gauranga Das, Lesmahagow, Scotland

"Thank you for the wonderful service you are doing. 'Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought' - This is a very nice purpose of your magazine. I was very impressed by this one liner."

- Darshan.N.Gowdigere, Bangalore, India

"Received BTP10. Excellent! Keep up the exposition of the bogus and the corrupt guru regime. Glad to see 'They should not be given any salary' article - about time the world knew how the bogus guru regime is being propped up by salaried Temple Presidents etc in devotee dresses."

- Mahesh Raja, Manchester, UK

"Please send me BTP on regular basis. This is an eye opener for anyone who wants to be in reality and embrace the greatest Spiritual Master there has ever been on earth."

- Ramana Kumar, Hyderabad, India

"I want to be a disciple of Srila Prabhupada. And follow the original source, the original Authority and unceasingly practice Krishna Consciousness. By His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada's mercy, serve Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Mission. And this is not feasible without knowing His INSTRUCTIONS (Unadulterated). Hence I beg to subscribe to Back to PRABHUPADA Magazine."

- Suraj Kumar Roy, Bangalore, India

"Prabhupada is Prabhupada. No Krsna Consciousness without Prabhupada."

- Rama Kant, Kolkata, India

"Please send me more about IRM details. I want to know the truth."

- Indra Rao, D/o Babundidu, Darulaman, Malaysia

"May God bless your purity and charity work! Please send me more about IRM association."

- Vanisree D/o Jeganathan, Kulim Kedah, Malaysia

"Fascinating..."

- Lee M. Mulowsky, Washington D.C., USA

"The original movement initiated by Srila Prabhupada was advocating the glory of Lord Krsna and Bhagavad Gita. Subsequently a lot of changes have come to this movement which are not desirable hence this movement should go back to preach universal religion of realisation of God."

- Dr. S.C. Joshi, Mumbai, India

"Thank you for opening my eyes on the guru issues. You have confirmed my suspicions. I've nine issues of BTP given to me by Jagannath das. Please send me more magazines. Hari bol."

- Mr M Rajput, Durban, South Africa

"I too feel that Iskcon is going commercial. Many dasas are working there as businessmen."

- Amarchand Rasiwala, Mumbai, India

"I appreciate your efforts to make sure that Iskcon stays as Srila Prabhupada desired. I am on your side and want to join you."

- SP Haritash, New Delhi, India

"I am very happy that IRM is taking good steps to make ISKCON a more authentic body and clarify to the world about ISKCON. Thanking you."

- Manmohan Bhanja, Puri, India

"Am hungry for more. You are doing great service to Prabhupada."

- Balaram Das, Nairobi, Kenya

"Approve very much of putting Prabhupada back in the centre."

- A. Keating, Berkeley, USA

ISKCON secularisation continues

In BTP 10 we provided illustrations of how ISKCON has deviated from the original mission of its founder and Guru, Srila Prabhupada, as the message of pure Krishna consciousness has become diluted. From selling courses on mantra meditation, to "soul mate yoga", to demigod worship and opening a school which teaches the syllabus of the government, ISKCON's descent into commercialisation continues unabated. This dilution of one's spiritual principles, in an attempt to become more mainstream, is more accurately known as "secularisation", with commercialisation being merely one symptom of this spiritual dilution. As ISKCON's own *Communications Journal* notes, secularization is: **"change in the direction of accommodation with mainstream cultures".**

However, ISKCON's mission is supposed to be to influence the mainstream culture to adopt Krsna consciousness, and not the other way around. Nowhere was this trend towards accommodation of both the wider "Hindu" and mainstream culture more apparent than at this year's Sri Krishna Janmasthami festival at ISKCON's UK headquarters, Bhaktivedanta Manor where, in the drive to appease the Hindu dollar, the focus on Srila Prabhupada's teachings seems to have been lost – as we illustrate below.

Keynote speaker

Previously, the following warning was given by Bhaktivedanta Manor's one-time GBC representative and voted-in guru, HH Sivarama Swami:

"In July, a well-known Hindu organization launched a world-wide yatra on the grounds of Bhaktivedanta Manor. To preside over the function, they invited many spiritual leaders. [...] When I saw the mélange of spiritual dignitaries, I had second thoughts. On

the stage were to be two yogis, a guru, a Sankaracarya, and myself - compromising association! [...] I felt that you, Srila Prabhupada, our Society, and of course Krishna had been grievously offended."

(HH Sivarama Swami, *Vyasa Puja offering*, 2002)

However, the keynote speaker at this year's Janmasthami festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor was the famous Indian yogi-guru His Holiness Swami Ramdevji Maharaja. According to the Maharaja's bio, he is *"the first, in the world health history, to use freely available Pran (Oxygen) as a medicine and in turn succeeds to cure thousands of grief stricken persons suffering from lethal diseases like Diabetes, H.B.P., Angina, [...]"*

In this regard Srila Prabhupada, the Founder of ISKCON's Bhaktivedanta Manor, states:

"The guru does not mean that I keep a guru. So as order-supplier "My dear guru, I am suffering from this. Can you give me some medicine?" "Yes, yes. Take this medicine." "Yes." Not that guru. If you are suffering from some disease, you go to a physician. It is not guru's business to give you some medicine. A guru's business is to give you Krsna."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, August 7th, 1973)

So while the Maharaja may have excellent credentials as a healer, we do question the wisdom of the Manor's management in selecting him as their keynote speaker on Lord Krishna's appearance day, particularly in light of both Srila Prabhupada's teachings and the warning given by their own previous GBC!

Human chain is "festival highlight"

The Hindu Forum of Britain, whose Spiritual Commissioner is the Manor's Temple President Gauri Das, issued the following press statement about the high

point of the Janmasthami celebrations:

"The highlight of the festival is a human chain to pray for the victims of terror and war."

This "highlight" was to take place as the time approached for Krishna's divine appearance at midnight. So instead of everyone being urged to meditate on this divine appearance of the Lord, on His Appearance Day, which is supposed to be the highlight of Janmasthami, instead all the many thousands of worshippers were encouraged to meditate and pray for the victims of the many political problems engulfing the planet.

Charity's philosophy rides roughshod over Bhagavad-gita

This urge to promote a secular approach to religion was continued via the promotion of "Hindu Aid", a charity which was allowed to distribute a brochure at the Janmasthami festival in Srila Prabhupada's temple that directly contradicted the teachings of Srila Prabhupada. We reproduce just one of these statements from the brochure, to illustrate the point:

Hindu Aid: *"For Hindus, serving humanity is like serving God."*

Srila Prabhupada: *"In the Bhagavad-gita is there such statement, that "Service to humanity is service to God"? Is there any statement? There is no. This is wrong theory. Don't maintain this. This is a very wrong theory [...] Then why do you say like that? And Krsna says openly, mam ekam saranam vraja. He doesn't even recommend to worship demigods. [...] So these are imagination, concoction. They are not authorized."*

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, April 24th, 1977)

ISKCON's wholehearted promotion of such activities inside Srila Prabhupada's temple in the name of accommodation and lib-

eralism should be contrasted with their attitude to anyone who dares to utter that Srila Prabhupada is the Guru of ISKCON. As noted, such persons are subject to bans and violence.

The wedding business

Please compare the following statements:

Bhaktivedanta Manor:

"Weddings [...] Bhaktivedanta Manor with its beautiful and spacious building and grounds has made it a very popular venue for this auspicious ceremony. [...] As part of the purification of the wedding ceremony we ask both Bride and Groom to refrain from eating non-vegetarian food and taking intoxicants for at least 48 hours before the wedding ceremony."

Srila Prabhupada: *"Uninitiated couples cannot be married by us. We shall not take the responsibility of an ordinary marriage maker. Our practice is to help devotees for advancing in Krishna Consciousness."* (Letter 11/1/70)

Bhaktivedanta Manor: *"Cost of wedding ceremony in 2007 – £2401 (\$4500) for a temple room booking"*

Srila Prabhupada: *"No, we are not marriage company. We get married our students if there is necessity, but we don't.... Marriage means they will arrange their marriage in our temple. [...] Similar proposal was there in Montreal. Then it will become a business. They are not devotees." (Conversation, 17/6/76) "N.B. You can allow the sacrifice in the Manor for Mrs. Mehta, but as with the weddings, they must pay for the room. (Don't have it in the temple room.) She can bring her own brahmanas." (Letter, 3/2/75)*

As was pointed out previously, such dilution of the spiritual principles taught by Srila Prabhupada is only to be expected, when Srila Prabhupada himself has been removed as the Guru from his own movement.

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

The twin faces of ISKCON's Janus

In a recent entry in his *Diary of a Traveling Preacher*, HH Indradyumna Swami ('IDS') relates the progress ISKCON is apparently making in Poland in dispelling its image of being a destructive cult. In this regard, he quotes former U.S. President John F. Kennedy:

"A nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood of ideas in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

What, of course, IDS will not reveal is that while ISKCON makes overtures to the government, media and public in presenting itself as a bona fide representative of India's Vedic culture, at the same time it practices temple bannings and cult violence against ISKCON members who support the IRM; the very people who, through the distribution of *BTP* magazine, are presenting the truth about Srila Prabhupada and the falsehood of ISKCON's guru system.

If IDS really does believe in the truth of the words he has quoted, then let him prove it: let all his disciples read *BTP* and *The Final Order* and judge the truth for themselves. What is he afraid of?

Candid camera

Meanwhile, you could not get stronger evidence of just how much ISKCON's leadership really believes in letting people examine the truth for themselves than the following video footage of ISKCON GBC and "guru" Ravindra Svarupa Das ('RSD') which can be seen simply by going to the following web address; simply wait and the video clip (titled "Detroit Wrath Yatra 2006") will begin to play automatically:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJy_OSj-Nc8

Here we see how RSD's repu-

tation as a great scholar in ISKCON who practices academic aloofness is exposed as he reacts aggressively to a peaceful *BTP* distributor in the middle of the Detroit Rathayatra festival. (RSD is seen wearing a red *kurta*, sun-hat and dark sunglasses, and trying to lunge at the *BTP* distributor and intimidate the cameraman).

What a huge irony that, on the one hand, the GBC presents to the academic world the following view of the IRM:

"There is no doubt that both ISKCON's leadership and the IRM have acted and are acting to establish what each considers the correct theological conclusion with regard to the affairs of gurus and disciples."

(GBC submission, *The Rival Positions in the IRM-GBC Controversy within ISKCON*, Martin-Luther University, Germany, 2006).

While on the other hand, one of its leading academic scholars, gurus and ex-GBC Chairman is ready to use force to silence the very same people who are sincerely acting to establish "the correct theological conclusion".

Doubly ironic is the fact that this supposed "guru reformer" in ISKCON, whose academic paper on reform has been published by *ISKCON Communications Journal*, should turn out to be a classic example of the two-faced Janus described in the same *Journal* by another academic:

"Still there are sceptical voices claiming that ISKCON, like the famous Janus, has two faces - the smiling face in dialogues with their external partners, and the strange, repressive face towards its own members - preaching wine to the dialoguing world and water to their devotees."

(Prof. Dr. Ulrich Dehn, *ICJ*, Vol 8. No. 1.)

GBC debates Srila Prabhupada's position - 30 years on

Can you imagine if the Governing Body Commission (GBC) of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness were to set up a special committee to determine the "position of Lord Krishna"? Would this not be a sure sign that they have no idea what they are doing, and are therefore unfit to lead the movement? Similarly, a committee set up to determine the position of the personality who leads us to Krishna, would also be no less ludicrous. Yet 30 years after Srila Prabhupada's physical departure, this is exactly what the GBC is doing, as the GBC's own report from meetings held in October states:

"First, each GBC member spoke for 5 minutes about their vision of the future of ISKCON and the GBC body. That discussion was distilled down to 6 topics that could form at least the beginning of their work: 1. SP (Srila Prabhupada)'s position [...] VI. Working committees

A. Three GBC members (or ministers) *minimum* will be assigned to each of the six topics the GBC body felt needed to be addressed: 1. SP's position [...]"

(GBC Special Meeting Report Summary, October 2006)

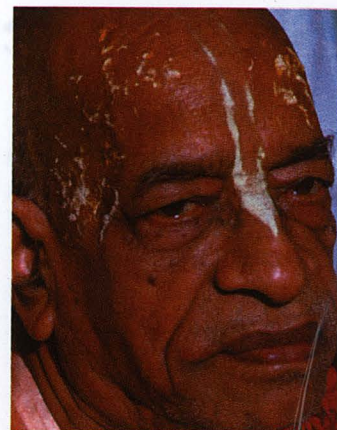
If the GBC are not even yet sure about something as fundamental as Srila Prabhupada's position in ISKCON, how is it possible to trust them on any issue?

In 2003, the GBC's "Sastric Advisory Council" (SAC) decided who Srila Prabhupada is not; he is not the *diksa* (initiating) Guru for anyone:

"Unfortunately for all of us, Srila Prabhupada is not physically present and so is no longer giving *diksa* to anyone."

(SAC, March 18th, 2003, emphasis added).

Yet every morning, every dev-



Srila Prabhupada:
GBC still figuring out his position

otee in ISKCON stands in front of Srila Prabhupada during the *Guru-puja* ceremony glorifying Srila Prabhupada with the verse:

"Divya-jnana hrde prokasito." Srila Prabhupada explains that this means the Guru (namely himself) is giving *diksa*:

"Divya-jnana hrde prokasito. What is that divya-jnana? [...] This is divya-jnana. Diksa. Diksa means from this divya-jnana."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, July 11th, 1976)

"There are two words, divya-jnana. Divya-jnana means transcendental, spiritual knowledge [...] that is di-ksa. This is called diksa, diksa, the combination. So diksa means the initiation to begin transcendental activities. That is called initiation."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture February 22, 1973)

Since this ceremony has been authorised by Srila Prabhupada to be conducted every single day in every single ISKCON temple for as long as ISKCON exists (predicted to be thousands of years), Srila Prabhupada is therefore the only *diksa* Guru in ISKCON for as long as ISKCON exists. That is the sum and substance of "Srila Prabhupada's position". But going by the previous 30 years of running the movement into the ground with their false guru succession programme, we don't expect the GBC to recognize Srila Prabhupada's actual position any time soon.

Spot the difference between...

"Actually Prabhupada never appointed any gurus. He appointed eleven ritviks." (HH Tamala Krishna Goswami, 3/12/80)

"Srila Prabhupada did not appoint anyone to be guru for the future." (HH Jayadvaita Swami, San Diego, debate 1990)

"By the influence of maya, illusion, a different idea soon evolved that Srila Prabhupada had appointed eleven 'pure devotees' to serve as the only gurus after him..." (HH Jayadvaita Swami, BTG #25-01, 1991)

and...

"A little before departing from this world in November of 1977, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada asked Hridayananda dasa Goswami, as well as ten other prominent disciples, to accept the role of spiritual masters and initiate disciples to give continuity to the disciplic succession starting with the Supreme Lord, Krishna." (www.acharyadeva.com/en/life/- official website - archived 2006 - of Hridayananda Goswami)



HH Hridayananda Das Goswami: Still under the influence of *maya*, according to HH Jayadvaita Swami

Why is that even after 30 years, the guru hoaxers still cannot get their story straight? Why are they still promoting, even today, that Srila Prabhupada appointed 11 gurus to succeed him, when the GBC claimed many years ago that the notion that Srila Prabhupada appointed 11 "zonal" gurus was false? Such confusion is only to be expected when the GBC has been governing for the last 30 years based solely on one concocted system after another, so that today no one is clear anymore what the "official" story is supposed to be!

ISKCON gurus losing faith in themselves

One of ISKCON's GBC voted-in gurus, HH Sivarama Swami (SRS), states:

"But when new people are brought to the Krishna consciousness movement and they are introduced to Srila Prabhupada, Krishna our teachings and way of life, then they should be able to do so and become familiar with all of these things without necessarily being guided to a particular spiritual master who may happen to be the preacher's spiritual master or who may be the spiritual master of most of the devotees in that temple."

(SRS, "GBC resolutions on the worship of guru", podcast July 21st, 2006)

Here SRS states that new devotees should be allowed to be "introduced to Srila Prabhupada", without the burden of "being guided to a particular spiritual master" – like himself, perhaps! This is, in fact, a tacit admission that being guided to one of ISKCON's 80 unauthorised spiritual masters will block the way to Srila Prabhupada. After all, if one can approach Srila Prabhupada without "necessarily being guided to a particular spiritual master", then WHY should one approach any other personality at all?!

SRS then reveals his lack of faith in the authenticity of ISKCON's gurus as spiritual masters who can be glorified to the whole world:

"and therefore devotees' enthusiasm and worship for their spiritual master should be kept more or less to themselves in the public domain of ISKCON, or it should be kept amongst svajatiya Godbrothers and God sisters, and in this case I'm talking about those who are initiated by the same spiritual master, and it should not be imposed on others."

(SRS, "GBC resolutions on the worship of guru", podcast July 21st, 2006)

This idea of restricting the worship and glorification of a bona fide spiritual master to a

limited circle is completely bogus, and simply exposes the fact that such gurus are not bona fide; for Srila Prabhupada states:

"The bona fide spiritual master who accepts disciples from all over the world is also worshipped all over the world because of his qualities. Lokanam asau pujoya yatha harih: the people of the world worship him just as they worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead."

(Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya-lila, 24.330 purport)

Further, SRS adds:

"The other aspect of this making propaganda for your spiritual master is that when devotees, spiritual masters, I hate to use the word, I don't like it so much I would rather prefer sannyasis, senior vaisnavas, GBCs; when they are preaching in public they should be advertised, but such advertisement is necessary but not on the basis of their being gurus, but on the basis of their actual service in the society such as a sannyasi, a grihastha etc. This is the rule you are referring to, Bill."

(SRS, "GBC resolutions on the worship of guru", podcast July 21st, 2006)

Here SRS again reveals a lack of faith in propounding the glories of ISKCON's gurus. He hates to use the word "spiritual master" when referring to his GBC-elected guru Godbrothers, and any advertising of their preaching should not refer to them as "gurus". With the horrendous track record amongst ISKCON's gurus, who can blame him? We can, of course, completely concur with SRS's sentiment, since none of the GBC gurus were authorised by Srila Prabhupada to be gurus in the first place. And that includes SRS himself.

When ISKCON's gurus are themselves not displaying full faith in broadcasting their glories openly to the public, why should anyone else have faith in them?

Academic preaching update

Recently, the Editor of *BTP*, Krishnakant, was in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, where he gave a multi-media presentation to academics from the Society for Studies in Sects and New Religious Movements, giving them the true picture of what is happening in ISKCON today. The Society represents the only organization in the Czech Republic which studies and advises on new religious movements. Krishnakant has been invited back by one of the academics, Professor Vojtisek, to give a presentation to his University students on the subject. Professor Vojtisek also runs a Czech magazine, *Dingir*, which is devoted to the study of New Religious Movements, and in the latest issue of this magazine, he writes about his meeting with Krishnakant as follows (translated):

Ritviks also in Prague

Krishnakant opened his tour in the Czech Republic with a lecture in Prague entitled "Srila Prabhupada - our eternal spiritual master". [...] IRM - ISKCON Revival Movement - is the official name of the ritvik organization which is part of Hare Krishna Movement. The substance of IRM's mission is this message - After the departure of ISKCON's founder Prabhupada in 1977, 11 of his disciples grabbed the leadership in this organization and began to present themselves like gurus/spiritual masters. Ritviks speak about this incident as a hoax, and support this idea with some documents from Prabhupada. [...] So the ritviks call to go 'Back to Prabhupada' and to follow his will. And according to the ritviks, Prabhupada is still the sole Guru, and therefore for his disciples it is not possible take a position higher than a ritvik priest in this spiritual tradition.

- Zdenek Vojtisek, Professor of Religious Studies, Carl University, Prague, Czech Republic

Dingir Magazine, www.dingir.cz

CRY FREEDOM: Beating the drum for Srila



By
**Jagannath
Das**

**Durban
South Africa**

My religious upbringing as a child made it easy for me to accept Krishna Consciousness. Taking birth in a Hindu family, it was natural for us to worship their Lordships Sita-Ram-Laxman and Hanuman, Laxmi Narayan or Radha Krishna. However, simply being a vegetarian and a teetotaler was not enough as I was looking for answers to my worldly existence and beyond – with a solution to the world's problems.

After reading five versions of the *Bhagavad-gita* by five different authors, it became clear that none of them explained the *Gita* in a way to capture the heart of the intellectual reader. I lost faith in reading religious material for a while, but maintained my prayer and worship as taught by my elders.

On 10th October 1975, I was invited to attend a Krishna Consciousness programme by a visiting Swami, who drove past my home in Reservoir Hills, Durban, South Africa at that time. Being fed up with so many priests/Swamis with their own hidden agendas and philosophy, I did not attend. As fate would dictate, 4½ years later, Friday 10th October 1975 would come to be the most important day in my life. For it was His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada who had been visiting Durban that day, and unfortunately I did not take the opportunity to meet him. During the Autumn of 1980, as if driven by force, I decided to leave my car at home and travel by bus to town, to go shopping on Grey Street, Durban, which in those days was nicknamed "Little India", and was a shopping hub for the Indian community. Walking amongst a group of people, a fe-

male devotee placed a copy of *The Science of Self-Realisation* on my chest, thus stopping me from walking ahead. I gave a donation, and after a short discussion, took the book. My first steps in Krishna consciousness had begun. This book was so enlightening that while reading in the bus, I forgot to get off at my stop!

I later visited the ISKCON Cato Ridge Temple in Durban. My cousin, who lived in the temple, introduced me to the local devotees. I began attending '*Nama-hattas*' (congregational programs), and helping in the yearly tent campaigns. As I read the *Bhagavad-gita* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, my respect and love for His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada grew more and more. I became deeply attached to him and his teachings. Srila Prabhupada most certainly opened my blinded eyes with the shining torch of knowledge. I offer my respectful obeisances unto him eternally.

In 1982, the Hare Krishna movement took a hard knock when Jayatirtha Maharaja, one of the 11 bogus "gurus" who participated in the Great Guru Hoax, Part 1, broke his *sannyasa* (renunciation) vows. Many devotees left ISKCON and joined the Gaudiya Matha (the mission which Srila Prabhupada left to start ISKCON) for shelter and guidance, whilst others just stayed at home. Most of the preaching activities stagnated. I had devotees from both camps (ISKCON and the Gaudiya Math) visit me daily to convince me to join them. I decided to stay in ISKCON as Srila Prabhupada founded ISKCON for our benefit. Nobody had preached Krishna Consciousness in South Africa before Srila Prabhupada.

In 1986, Bhagavan Das, another one of the 11 bogus "gurus" who participated in the Great Guru Hoax, Part 1 – and replace-

ment for Jayatirtha – also fell down from *sannyasa*. By 1988, most devotees lost faith in the "white-bodied gurus". It was decided to bring in a couple of "Indian-bodied gurus" with a few more white-bodied ones as well. We were encouraged (in some instances canvassed) to take initiation from any one of these half a dozen gurus. Some of us were reluctant, but were told that "initiation was just a formality", and nothing will change. We will still be guided and instructed by the Temple President etc. I unwittingly agreed to go with the flow.

My wife and I were the first to get initiated by Bhakti Caitanya Swami, in a mass initiation ceremony by six gurus, during the Rathayatra festival in 1990. ISKCON's biggest problems started hereafter as follows:

- Monies meant for the temples were now given as "*guru dakshina*" (donations to the guru) by respective disciples.
- Some gurus specifically visited South Africa to collect money.
- Disciples would only listen to their gurus, causing conflict with the instructions given by the local management like Temple Presidents.
- Guru camps divided the devotee congregation.
- Some gurus insisted their disciples drop their services and be close to them as long as they were in the country.
- Devotees were instructed to only associate with their own Godbrothers and Godsisters (i.e. disciples initiated by the same "gurus"), thus discriminating between and dividing the devotees even more.
- A non-disciple in a Godbrother's camp is seen as a spy for his or her own guru or temple authority.
- Gurus gave preference to visiting rich disciples' homes – you can guess why!

• Srila Prabhupada took a back seat during ISKCON gurus' own "*Vyasa-Pujas*" (annual ceremony celebrating the appearance of the bona fide Guru in this world). I remember one devotee was so annoyed with his Godbrothers during their guru's "*Vyasa-Puja*", that he stole a rose garland kept by someone for his guru and put it on Srila Prabhupada's deity – who was wearing a marigold garland at that time.

• Philosophical deviations – different gurus preached different philosophies, which were not in line with Srila Prabhupada's teachings, nor with each other!

Most lectures given by the gurus and their supporters became one of the following:-

1. "How I can siphon your money" (commonly known as the "money lecture").
2. "Must listen to authority and don't use your intelligence" (even if the authorities are wrong).
3. "It is an *aparadha* (offense) to speak your mind and the truth" (whilst lying, stealing, cheating etc. is accepted).
4. "You can't go back to Godhead without being initiated by an ISKCON guru, neither can you make spiritual progress without such initiation."
5. "Krishna will remove you from the association of devotees if you go against guru or authority".
6. "You won't be recommended for initiation if you don't do a lot of service, and please your guru" (commonly known as the "blackmail lecture").

By 2000, most of the preaching that had been built up previously was destroyed.

From the very beginning I had opened my own *Nama-hatta* group and started preaching. I continued this for 20 years, participating and organising in every festival I could think of, and became a very active member of the local

Prabhupada in South Africa

ISKCON movement. I preached in the "Questions and Answers" tent in most major festivals. Later the authorities felt threatened by the success of my preaching program and worked to ensure I was removed from my service.

When I stopped giving donations to the temple knowing that my money was not being spent for Krishna Consciousness activities, my "guru" Bhakti Caitanya Swami told my son that I am a miser. Fortunately, by the grace of Srila Prabhupada and Sri Gauranga, I saw through Bhakti Caitanya Swami --- and took my family away from further disaster, not allowing him to brainwash us. He has a large number of disciples in South Africa, and many have told me of their nasty encounters and disappointment with him. This programming of children and adults is very rife in South Africa. As evidence, one only has to see the devotees fearful and shivering due to the fear of their gurus and temple authorities, yet in order for one "to qualify to be a student of *Bhagavad-gita*" he/she has to eliminate these obstacles first. In the *Srimad-Bhagavatam* it is said that fearfulness and loss of mental equilibrium take place in persons who are too affected by material conditions. It is evident that most people's Krishna consciousness has not even begun as yet -- even though some of them have graduated from the Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture. This artificial Krishna Consciousness has replaced real Krishna Consciousness since Srila Prabhupada departed. Devotee association at present is simply a social gathering, where most people come to eat, talk and

go home. I wrote to the authorities, highlighting my complaints, but I never got a reply. Instead, I got victimised. Many devotees were instructed not to talk to me, as I was supposedly going against Srila Prabhupada, and not obeying the guru and authority. The reality however is that I was being victimised for speaking and writing the truth about bogus gurus and a bogus management -- both with their own hidden agendas. Even *Istaghastis* (discussions amongst devotees) are held only to siphon information from the congregation and use it against the congregation itself, for the management's benefit only.

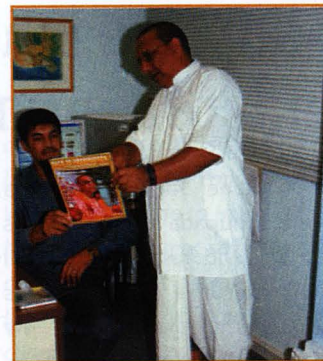
After I had begun studying Srila Prabhupada's books, initially I became sad that Srila Prabhupada was not physically present before me. However, this lamentation soon turned to nectar, as I began meditating on Srila Prabhupada in separation. Although Srila Prabhupada has given us everything in his books, he still sometimes out of compassion and love appears in my dreams. So, how anyone can say the Spiritual Master is "dead" is beyond my understanding. Also, ISKCON and the Gaudiya Math insist on initiation from a physically living guru, but what happens when the living guru leaves his body? Who will deliver his disciple, now that the guru is 'dead'? ISKCON has already experienced this and I seek an answer from the GBC (Guru Business Committee).

As I saw ISKCON disintegrating before my very eyes, and all the problems simply multiplying, I often began to wonder how and when Krishna will step in and put ISKCON right. My prayer was soon to be answered when I met an ex-ISKCON devotee a few years ago. He was one of the very first devotees in Durban to join the temple here. He later lived at Bhaktivedanta Manor in the UK.

He left and later joined the IRM and put me on the IRM's mailing list. I was extremely happy to read the *Back to Prabhupada* (BTP) magazines and particularly *The Final Order*. Though I had seen and experienced the deviations of the gurus first-hand, it was *The Final Order* which was able to put everything into a philosophical perspective, and also give the solution out of the mess -- which was to return Srila Prabhupada as everyone's Guru, through the IRM. I thus became enthused to do some real service for Srila Prabhupada via the IRM. I contacted Sriman Krishnakant Prabhu, who sent me a shipment of BTP magazines for distribution. I distributed them to many selected people (but not to the fearing and shivering type!), and now many people in South Africa are becoming aware of the guru hoax.

Since I have been banned from speaking at the local ISKCON temple here in Phoenix-Durban, I am currently conducting *Gita* classes at the local Hindu temples and also preaching at Hindu prayer meetings. I was also invited to speak at the local *Nama-hatta* groups, until the *Nama-hatta* leaders were chastised for inviting me to preach. They were told not to allow me to talk anywhere. Due to the management's fear of me I am no longer invited, even though I myself helped keep the preaching alive for some 20 years. I understand our battle is against *Maya* (the illusory energy that keeps us bound to this material world) and her agents, who are currently posing as bogus gurus, and materially motivated temple presidents, authorities and managers. Let us hate the sin and not the sinner.

My desire is to flood South Africa with BTPs for the truth seekers, so they can come back to Srila Prabhupada. My wish is to also enlighten devotees who are not



Jagannath Das delivers the truth to a compatriot

initiated to immediately accept Srila Prabhupada as their bona fide Guru. I have plans to invite Krishnakant Prabhu to visit South Africa in the future to preach to the devotees as well as talk on radio and television, and conduct press interviews.

It is ironic that for decades South Africa was subject to the apartheid regime, and though this has now been dismantled, in ISKCON we still face a spiritual apartheid where Srila Prabhupada and his devotees are banned from ISKCON, and where the GBC's "police force" are known to beat dissenters. I therefore wish to thank the devotees who are helping the IRM in its mission and humbly request other devotees in South Africa to help us bring Srila Prabhupada back to ISKCON, and into our lives, so that we can once again experience real freedom.

I write this story as a warning to the devotee community not to blindly follow the current authorities, which are hopelessly out of touch with real Krishna Consciousness. The bogus authorities, gurus and their henchmen have kicked out devotees for speaking out. Others have left on their own accord, being fed up.

Let us unite in prayer that Srila Prabhupada is brought back to ISKCON, as ISKCON is at present a ship without a captain, sinking slowly but surely.

Readers are cordially invited to follow Jagannath's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

"In ISKCON, we still face a spiritual apartheid where Srila Prabhupada is banned from ISKCON"

“Anyone who disobeys the order of the spiritual master immediately becomes useless.”

On June 4th, 1977, Srila Prabhupada ordered in his Last Will and Testament that all future executive directors of his properties in India should be **“my initiated disciple”**. Furthermore, he stipulated in the Will that the “system of management” in operation in ISKCON – which would have included the *ritvik* system of initiations – should not change.

On July 9th, 1977, Srila Prabhupada issued an institutional directive which appointed 11 of his disciples to take up the function of being the first “*ritviks*” (representatives or officiating priests), to initiate disciples on his behalf. Immediately after his departure from this world, the GBC discarded both these instructions from Srila Prabhupada and installed unauthorised gurus to replace him.

If you ever wondered why ISKCON led by unauthorised gurus became and continues to become **“derailed”** (ISKCON guru Jayadvaita Swami, 1997), **“polarised and disintegrating”** (ISKCON guru and ex-GBC Chairman Ravindra Svarupa Das, 2000) and subjected to **“*kali chelas* or agents of *kali* who entered our movement to destroy it”** (GBC member, Harivilas Das, 2006), it is because of this one simple fact: Srila Prabhupada's orders, in particular the order to keep him as the sole *diksa* (initiating) Guru, were disobeyed.

The secret of success

“Following the order of the bona fide spiritual master is the only duty of the disciple, and this completely faithful execution of the order of the bona fide spiritual master is the secret of success.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 2.9.8, purport)

“Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti also advises that if we want to be successful in our attempt to go back to Godhead, we must very seriously act according to the instruction of the spiritual master. That is the way of perfection. There need be no anxiety over attaining perfection because if one follows the instruction given by the spiritual master he is sure to attain perfection. Our only concern should be how to execute the order of the spiritual master.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 4.8.71, purport)

Real disciple

“We have to render service to a guru and surrender ourselves. It is not that one should accept just any person as a guru. The guru must be the representative of Krsna; then one can surrender oneself. Surrender means that one will accept whatever the guru says. It is not that one thinks, ‘I do not care for my guru's order. Still I am a disciple.’ That is not actually accepting a guru. Of course, it has become a fashion to accept a guru in this way, but this will not help anyone.”

(Teachings of Lord Kapila)

“There should be no instance in which the disciple or the son says,

‘This is not correct. I cannot carry it out.’ When he says that, he is fallen [...] the order of the spiritual master is the life and soul of the disciples.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 3.24.13, purport)

“This acceptance of the words of the spiritual master is called srauta-vakya, which indicates that the disciple must carry out the spiritual master's instructions without deviation. Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura remarks in this connection that a disciple must accept the words of his spiritual master as his life and soul.”

(Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Adilila 7.72, 77, purport)

Useless and deviant disciples

“The order of the spiritual master is the active principle in spiritual life. Anyone who disobeys the order of the spiritual master immediately becomes useless.”

(Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Adilila 12.8-10)

“When disciples do not stick to the principle of accepting the order of their spiritual master, immediately there are two opinions. Any opinion different from the opinion of the spiritual master is useless. One cannot infiltrate materially concocted ideas into spiritual advancement. That is deviation.”

(Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Adilila 12.8-10, purport)

“The instructions received from the spiritual master must be followed immediately. One should not deviate from or surpass the instructions of the spiritual master.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 5.5.14, purport)

Following bona fide guru's order gives one great power

“Especially for spiritual advancement, one should carry out the bona fide order of the spiritual master. By the parampara system, one can thus be endowed with the original spiritual power coming from the Supreme Personality of Godhead (evam parampara-praptam imam rajarsayo viduh).”

“The disciple must stick to whatever the spiritual master orders. Simply by following on that line, one sees the Supreme Personality of Godhead [...] Instead of being eager to see the Lord in some bush in Vrndavana while at the same time engaging in sense gratification, if one instead sticks to the principle of following the words of the spiritual master, he will see the Supreme Lord without difficulty.”

(Bhagavatam 4.28.51, purport)

Neglecting bona fide guru's order leads to failure

“As soon as the disciple thinks independently, not caring for the instructions of the spiritual master, he is a failure.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 8.17.1, purport)

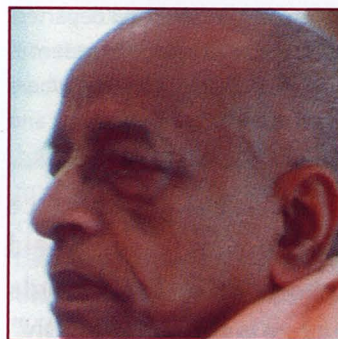
How to honor Srila Prabhupada

“Brahma praises Kardama because he carried out the orders of the spiritual master in toto and without cheating [...] To honor the spiritual master means to carry out his instructions word for word.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 3.24.12, purport)

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.



Readers' questions and challenges

"Blasphemy of Vaisnavas is not desirable. All Vaisnavas are merely servants of the Lord and justice lies in the hands of the Lord Himself only."

- Mukunda Das Calcutta, India

Editor replies: We completely agree that blasphemy of Vaisnavas is not desirable. As we mentioned in our last issue, we first have to know who is actually a Vaisnava. Clearly, if one is disobeying his spiritual master, he cannot be a Vaisnava. And what greater disobedience of the spiritual master can there be than trying to usurp his seat and take his place? Kicking the Guru out is blasphemy, not simply STATING that the Guru has been kicked out!

"They declared some unfit person to become acarya. Then another man came, then another, acarya, another acarya. So better remain a foolish person perpetually to be directed by Guru Maharaja. That is perfection. And as soon as he learns the Guru Maharaja is dead, "Now I am so advanced that I can kill my guru and I become guru." Then he's finished."

(Srla Prabhupada Conversation, August 16th, 1976)

As far as "justice lies in the hands of the Lord Himself only", the Lord advised Arjuna as follows:

"Krsna never said that "My dear Arjuna, you are My first-class devotee. Now you sit down and I'll do everything for you." No. Krsna never said. Rather, Arjuna was not willing to fight, and Krsna was inducing him, "You must fight. You must fight." Krsna never said that "You become idle krsna-bhakta," never said. So those who are trying to be idle krsna-bhakta, they are not devotees."

(Srla Prabhupada Lecture, February 5th, 1975)

"Sometimes I read BTP. There is not much about Bhakti and Dharma. Please start giving discourse step by step on Sri Mahabagwat. Lord Krsna's reference and His sayings may please be included. Prabhupada lived for this - please set up more temples and create 'real' centres of Bhakti and religion."

- BK Singhania, Calcutta, India

Editor replies: BTP contains many direct quotes from Srla Prabhupada, who is both the personification of *bhakti* (devotion) and *dharma* (religion), as well as Lord Krishna's pure representative. The purpose of the magazine, however, is not to elaborate on Lord Krishna's pastimes (*Krsna-katha*) - these are perfectly described in Srla Prabhupada's books and you are at liberty to read them. BTP's mission is first and foremost to establish WHO is the bona fide guru one must surrender to! At the moment, the entire ISKCON world is in illusion that Srla Prabhupada is "dead and gone", and that one must therefore surrender to a substitute personality elected by the GBC. Without even knowing the identity of the genuine spiritual master, there is NO question of *bhakti*, *dharma* or anything else:

"By the Grace of Guru one gets Krishna and by the Grace of Krishna one gets a bona fide Guru. Therefore Krishna consciousness means staunch faith both in Guru and Krishna. One minus the other is no good for the devotee. So your faith in the principles of devotion to Guru will certainly help you more and more Krishna. Do not ever try to approach Krishna directly. Anyone who talks of Krishna without service to Guru will not be successful."

(Srla Prabhupada Letter, September 27th, 1967, emphasis added)

Please also refer to this issue's Editorial on 'Knowledge v bricks'.

"I have read most of the contents of these magazines and they seem to be very negative about Iskcon and the Sanatan Dharma, as though you have an axe to grind against Iskcon. The contents also seem to be libellous and bitter. This does not make sense to me since Iskcon is the only major organization that is fighting for, and spreading, Vedic dharma around the globe. [...] If our own Hindus undermine these efforts, that is not very good."

- Jai Ram, White City, Canada

Editor replies:

The contents of the magazine cannot be libellous since they simply state documented truth, facts and words - most of it from the GBC themselves! Srla Prabhupada wrote first and foremost that we must be truthful and follow the truth. In *Back To Prabhupada* we are simply speaking the truth - that Srla Prabhupada started a great movement called ISKCON, and that now it has been hijacked by others who have illegally removed Srla Prabhupada from his rightful position as the Guru of the movement, and instead unauthorisedly installed themselves as his successors.

You speak of spreading *Sanatan-dharma*. But *dharma* cannot be spread built on a lie. *Dharma* is nothing if not truth personified.

Thus we are actually helping the cause of *dharma* by educating everyone about the truth regarding what is happening in ISKCON, for armed with this truth ISKCON will actually be better placed to spread true *Sanatan-dharma*.

You also speak of Hindus undermining each other's efforts - so I am surprised you have not commented on the fact, which we have highlighted repeatedly in the magazine, that ISKCON bans other Hindus from visiting its temples.

"There are millions of conditioned souls suffering for lack of Krishna consciousness. What does BTP do to help them? I hear some devotees say that your magazine harms people's spiritual life. How do you answer this charge?"

- M K Singh, Mumbai, India

Editor replies:

The first step in helping any suffering soul come to Krsna Consciousness is to bring them to the shelter of the bona fide Guru - that Guru is Srla Prabhupada. Without the shelter of the bona fide guru, there is NO question of giving relief to any suffering soul in this world:

"No one can get out of this struggle for existence, which is full of miseries, without accepting a pure devotee of the Lord."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 3.15.24, purport)

BTP, as we have many times stated, is designed specifically to inform people that the bona fide Guru who can give one relief from suffering is His Divine Grace Srla Prabhupada. ISKCON, on the other hand, is ensuring that all these millions of suffering people will continue to suffer because the GBC has legislated that Srla Prabhupada is NO LONGER available to give shelter directly as one's spiritual master. Rather, one must take shelter of an unauthorised, fallible substitute - namely, one of the GBC's own 2/3 majority elected "gurus". Therefore, it is the GBC, not our 16-page magazine, that is harming people's spiritual lives. Indeed, as the many letters we are receiving prove, people are happy to know that Srla Prabhupada is their Guru and attest to the fact that BTP is helping them advance in their spiritual life.

We welcome all correspondence.

Email us: irm@iskconirm.com

The biggest “guru” in ISKCON: Case study of HH

Of all the gurus who currently hold sway in ISKCON, none can match His Holiness Jayapataka Swami (henceforward “JPS”), in terms of the number of disciples he has amassed (approximately 5000 and counting). He has therefore stolen more disciples from Srila Prabhupada than anyone else, via masquerading as Srila Prabhupada’s “appointed successor”. Here we trace the history of his false guru programme.

1978: JPS leads Guru Hoax delegation

JPS was one of the 11 *ritviks*, or officiating priests, appointed by Srila Prabhupada in his signed institutional directive of July 9th 1977 to initiate new disciples into ISKCON on his behalf. Immediately on Srila Prabhupada’s physical departure from this world in November that year, the 11 appointed *ritviks* unauthorisedly discarded their spiritual master’s directive, abandoned their appointed roles as priestly representatives, and claimed instead that they had been appointed as Srila Prabhupada’s “good-as-God” guru successors. Thus the Great Guru Hoax, part 1 was created.

The new “gurus” knew, however, that simply inventing a radically new guru system would be an extremely difficult hoax to foist on the movement without any sort of authorisation. Since this authorisation clearly did not come from Srila Prabhupada, the 11 decided rather cleverly to approach one of Srila Prabhupada’s senior Godbrothers, HH Sridhara Swami, and get him to lend some semblance of spiritual authority to their deviant plans. The meeting was recorded, and the following conversation transcripts illustrate how JPS seriously misled Sridhara Maharaja with the lie that Srila Prabhupada had appointed 11 guru successors:

JPS: “Maharaja, when our Srila Prabhupada left, then he has given instruction that for initiating and for carrying on the *sampradaya* there would be eleven - in the beginning, he appointed eleven devotees, his disciples, to be initiating spiritual masters or to accept disciples and in the future that number would also be able to be increased. So we wanted to take your advice on some points as to various details of how these initiating spiritual masters should deal with certain questions. If we could ask questions to you then?”

Sridhara Maharaja: “Yes, you may ask.”

JPS: “He has given explicit desires, but he told us that, on other technical points and other matters of philosophy, if there was question we should approach you.”

(GBC conversation with HH Sridhara Maharaja, Mayapur, March 1978)

Above we see that in addition to lying about the appointment of 11 gurus, JPS also misled Sridhara Maharaja that Srila Prabhupada had given “explicit desires” for his disciples to approach him for advice on “matters of philosophy”. This piece of fiction is directly contradicted by Srila Prabhupada himself:

“Actually amongst my Godbrothers no one is qualified to become *acarya*. So it is better not to mix with my Godbrothers very intimately because instead of inspiring our students and disciples they may sometimes pollute them.”

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 28th April, 1974)

1998: JPS invents “instruction” from Srila Prabhupada

JPS once claimed in a Vyasa Puja offering to Srila Prabhupada:

“In your transcendental literatures you repeatedly mention how you hope for the day when all your

followers will be initiating spiritual masters, initiating even 10,000 or more disciples into the guru parampara.”

(Jayapataka Swami, Vyasa Puja offering to Srila Prabhupada, 1998)

JPS has not allowed the fact that the above instruction is not mentioned even once, not to speak of “repeatedly”, in any of Srila Prabhupada’s “literatures” to deter him from amassing over 5,000 disciples, far in excess of any other ISKCON guru hoaxer. Indeed, in the same year as this statement above, the GBC body (ISKCON’s Governing Body Commission) had issued a warning about JPS’ ambitions in acquiring disciples:

“We note that (Jayapataka) Maharaja has already made adjustments in his approach to the question of *siksa* relationships in ISKCON and accept his assurance that he is not initiating discussion on the establishment of *siksa* relationships with those devotees who are not his disciples unless they themselves broach it.”

(Final GBC Appraisals, 1998)

1998: GBC encourages JPS to chant on his beads

“We also note he (JPS) has made positive efforts to improve the visible chanting of his japa and attendance at the morning program and encourage him to continue with this.”

(Final GBC Appraisals, 1998)

1998: JPS talks himself out of a job

“As such he (Srila Prabhupada) is the Foundational *siksa* guru for all ISKCON devotees. [...] Whether as disciple, grand-disciple, and *siksa* disciple everyone has a direct access to Srila Prabhupada and His Divine Grace’s full mercy.”

(Ritvik Theory – Out of The Question, JPS, 1998)

If a “*siksa* disciple” of Srila Prabhupada has direct access

to and the full mercy of Srila Prabhupada, pray tell for what reason does anyone need to take initiation from JPS? It cannot be to “connect” to Srila Prabhupada, since we already have direct access, just by taking *siksa* from Srila Prabhupada, according to JPS. And since such a disciple is also getting the full mercy of Srila Prabhupada, they are totally set in their spiritual life, and there would be no need to additionally surrender their life to JPS. They could just stick with Srila Prabhupada, which is what we recommend!

1999: JPS’s finances average “70,000 per month”

“To give you a brief of myself before going further, I am the secretary of GM (‘GM’ = ‘Guru Maharaja’, in this case referring to JPS – ed.) by mainly taking care of all the finances [...] This year the expenses in travel alone have gone to the tune of over 60,000 dollars plus [...] The average bills for GM’s travels, secretary and other expenses come to about 70,000 per month.”

(Date: Sun, 12 Dec 99 04:44 +0000, From: “COM: Mahaguna (dd) JPS (Atlanta, GA - USA)”, Text 2850317)

1999: JPS upset at anti-sastric (scriptural) GBC

“Actually the scriptures mention that the guru can be called by such names as Visnupada, Prabhupada, Acharyadeva. Nonetheless the GBC felt that being attached to this particular scriptural instruction has been counter-productive as many devotees felt that it was artificial to accept such names. [...] At first I was quite upset because this was not according to Srila Prabhupada’s instructions given in his books. [...] Considering the time, place and circumstances we are in there is some merit in this decision although it apparently contravenes a direct instruction of Srila Prabhupada given in his books.”

(JPS Letter to Disciples, March 24th 1999)

Jayapataka Swami

2000: JPS declares Srila Prabhupada "dead"

"The following article was published on the Front Page of Today's Asian Age [...] Shankarshan das and Nitai Prasad das delivered the press release and cultivated the press. I drafted the press release and it was edited by our lawyers. The newspaper edited it themselves as they always do. Still the main gist is there: 'In a signed statement issued to all Krishna bhaktas around the world, Mayapur general manager Dham Nitai Prasad Dasa has accused [...] all devotees wanting to receive diksha within Iskcon should still receive it from founder-acharya of Iskcon, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Srila Prabhupada, and become his direct disciples, in spite of him being dead for the last 23 years,' the letter says." (Asian Age, front page, 24/7/2000), *Emphasis added* (Jayapataka Swami, Monday, July 24, 2000 10:12 PM)

Note: The newspaper quotes directly from the press release drafted by JPS ("the letter says"), delivered by Nitai Prasad, and which JPS also agrees contains the "main gist".

2000: JPS implicated in false rape and suicide case

The following newspaper reports refer to the suicide of an ISKCON devotee who was falsely implicated in a false rape case:

THE TIMES OF INDIA

10 August 2000:

The acting chief metropolitan magistrate K.P. Dutta on Monday ordered the police to take necessary steps against eight persons attached to ISKCON, so that they cannot leave India. The eight are: 1. Jayapataka Swami, 2. Satadhanya Das, 3. Dayaram Das, 4. Bhadracharan Das, [...]

THE TELEGRAPH

Calcutta, 10 August 2000:

WARRANTS OUT FOR 8 ISKCON MONKS

The case of the Iskcon monk's suicide took a dramatic turn on Wednesday with the court ordering the police to arrest 8 monks of the order. One of them, the chief of Iskcon's Mayapur centre, is said to be absconding.

2004: GBC attempt to rein in JPS fails

JPS ran into trouble with the GBC, the body that illegally maintains he is a bona fide guru successor to Srila Prabhupada, when he started approaching and writing to the disciples of other ISKCON gurus, sending them his blessings and offering to act as their spiritual guide:

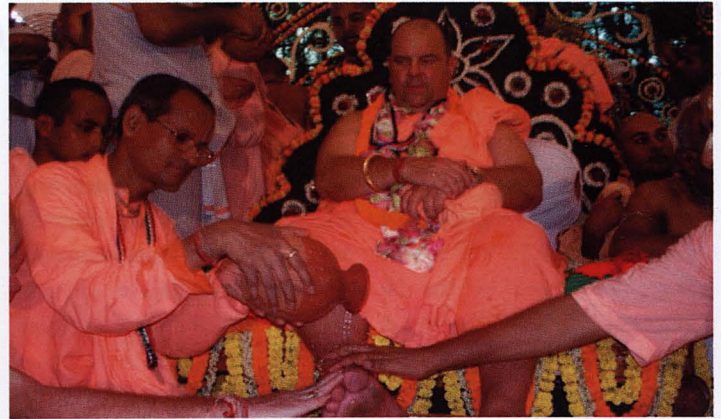
"Happy Birthday to you! You are in my regular prayers whenever I pray to the Deities. (...) Please find attached a picture of myself sending you blessings. I hope this finds you blissful in Krishna consciousness and healthy.

**Your well wisher always,
Jayapataka Swami"**

He was cautioned by the Executive Committee (EC) of the GBC in an extraordinary meeting to deal with the crisis, but to little avail. Here is one angry complaint from Indradyumna Swami, whose disciples were so propositioned:

"I would like to request you not to send such letters to any of my disciples in the future. I feel these letters are in the mood of canvassing for followers and are contrary to the restrictions imposed on you recently by the EC."

(HH Indradyumna Swami to JPS)



Jayapataka Swami: ISKCON's biggest "guru" who has acquired an estimated 5000 disciples

2004: JPS declares himself a divine associate

JPS' website biography states the following:

"HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaja was glad to see that his name - Gordan John (Gour Dhan Jan) - already suggested what Srila Prabhupada confirmed, that he and two other devotees were formerly associates of Lord Caitanya and that they had taken their birth in the west to facilitate spreading Krishna consciousness around the world."

(www.jpsoffice.com/biography.html, archived August 2006)

2004: ISKCON guru calls JPS a "sick, obsessed, duplicitous liar"

JPS is "a sick person" and "obsessed" who "makes lying or duplicitous behaviour fully reconcilable with service to Prabhupada."

(HH Sivarama Swami on JPS)

2006: "Miracle cure" wears off

JPS's biography also states: *"When Jayapataka Maharaja was eleven years old, at the suggestion of his grandfather he cured himself of a skin disease by calling on the name of God."*

Given the above miraculous cure, it is surprising that according to his guru Godbrother, HH Bhanu Swami, JPS is suffering skin diseases today, along with a host of other ailments:

"overweight, BP, urinary problems, skin rashes and allergy, and you will have a shortened life span [...] I have noticed that all the diets he has followed for the last ten years

have not reduced his body weight by 1 kg. A real program will get the weight down 20 kg. in 5 months."

(HH Bhanu Swami, report on JPS' health, July 24th 2006)

Perhaps JPS needs to follow the GBC's recommendations from its 1998 "guru appraisals" and "call on the name of God" more often.

2006: JPS "diksa guru forever"

The following is taken from the official initiation oath form for those who wish to take initiation from JPS:

"1. [...] I HEREBY SOLEMNLY MAKE THE FOLLOWING VOWS:

I accept Srila Jayapataka Swami to be my initiating (diksa) and instructing (siksha) spiritual master (Guru) forever, even life after life."

("Initiation Acceptance Oath", archived August 2006)

Please note that nowhere in Srila Prabhupada's instructions is it stated that "His Divine Grace Srila Jayapataka Swami" is authorised to be an initiating spiritual master even in this life, not to speak of "forever". The GBC cannot even accept Srila Prabhupada as the diksa Guru in ISKCON for anyone for even ONE DAY -

"Unfortunately for all of us, he (Srila Prabhupada) is not physically present and so is no longer giving diksa to anyone"

(GBC's Sastri Advisory Council, March 18th, 2003)

- yet they are more than happy to grant diksa guru status to Jayapataka Swami for ETERNITY!

GBC crash in official academic debate with IRM

In the previous issue of *BTP*, we reported on the historic debate between the IRM and ISKCON's Governing Body Commission (GBC). The debate was commissioned by the famous Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, and published this year in the form of an academic paperback, titled ***The Rival Positions in the IRM-GBC Controversy within ISKCON***. Since the GBC state in their submission that "This paper has been endorsed on December 24, 2004 by the Governing Body Commission (GBC) for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)", it will be of particular interest to scholars, devotees and the religious media. Thus we have decided to place the book online, and it can be accessed, along with our rebuttal to the GBC's submission, from our website at the following weblink: www.iskconirm.com/krishnakirti.pdf. It can be purchased from the University by contacting Ms. Petra Ruthenberg, at: ruthenberg@bibliothek.uni-halle.de, and also from Amazon online at www.amazon.de.

Unfortunately for the GBC, while attempting to defeat the IRM's position that Srila Prabhupada established a "ritvik" system whereby officiating priests would continue to initiate new disciples on his behalf for the lifetime of ISKCON, thereby keeping Srila Prabhupada as the only Guru, their submission turned out to be the academic equivalent of a major car accident, as we now highlight. Extracts from the GBC paper are quoted first, followed by the IRM's response. Due to the limited space accorded by this short article, we have necessarily only selected certain parts of the GBC's submission. The IRM's full rebuttal to the GBC's paper can be read online at the IRM website, at the same place where we have placed

the book, at www.iskconirm.com/krishnakirti.pdf

In the following extracts from the debate, "TFO" is an abbreviation for the IRM's foundational paper, *The Final Order*.

GBC changes its view of IRM

GBC: "There is no doubt that both ISKCON's leadership and the IRM have acted and are acting to establish what each considers the correct theological conclusion with regard to the affairs of gurus and disciples."

IRM: This is an interesting statement from the GBC, since it is putting the motivation of the IRM on par with the GBC, in that it is admitted that both are acting only with sincere theological considerations. This is a departure from the normal demonisation of the IRM as a movement which exists only to either destroy or take over ISKCON etc.

GBC's obsession with "henceforward"

GBC: "At the same time, TFO has denied that it is relevant to their interpretation of the July 9, 1977 letter (KRISHNAKANT 2002: 4):

"Furthermore the argument that the whole ritvik system 'hangs' on one word — 'henceforward' — is untenable, since even if we take the word out of the letter, nothing has changed."

The above statement seems to be more of an afterthought rather than an original part of the TFO. One reason for its existence could be that not long after TFO was first published, opposing arguments demonstrated that the word "henceforward", as Srila Prabhupada has used it, can be implicitly limited by other circumstances or instructions previously given."

IRM: This argument is illogical since the statement from TFO referred to was IN TFO when it was

"first published", so how can opposing arguments which emerged after TFO was published have any relevance? In addition, this is an implied straw-man argument (a straw-man argument refers to an argument which we have not actually made, and therefore the paper defeating such an argument is irrelevant to the debate at hand), since TFO does not state anywhere that the word "henceforward" can NOT be "implicitly limited by other circumstances or instructions previously given. [...]". The whole of TFO after the first few pages is actually devoted to considering the possibility of such other instructions. TFO does, however, find that such other instructions which would lead to the termination of the directive do not exist.

GBC's problem

GBC: "Remarks such as

"At the same time, I shall request them all to become spiritual master. Every one of you should be spiritual master next."

continue to be problematic for the hard ritviks."

IRM: There is nothing problematic about this remark, since such a remark has been demonstrated as being applicable to ALL Srila Prabhupada's disciples becoming *siksa* not *diksa* gurus. The paper's argument (given in an earlier section) that why would Srila Prabhupada request his disciples to do something they were already doing (acting as *siksa* gurus) is negated by the fact that in the same remark above, not quoted by the paper, Srila Prabhupada also states:

"At the same time, I shall request them all to become spiritual master. Every one of you should be spiritual master next. And what is their duty? Whatever you are hearing from me, whatever you are learning from me, you have to distribute the same in toto without any addition or alter-

Südasienswissenschaftliche
Arbeitsblätter
Band 9

The Rival Positions in the IRM-GBC Controversy within ISKCON

Authorised statements by
KRISHNAKANT DESAI
and
CHRISTOPHER SHANNON
edited by
RAHUL PETER DAS

The IRM defends
the authority of
Srila Prabhupada in
scholarly publication

ation. Then all of you become the spiritual master."

Clearly the same disciples were also ALREADY distributing what they were learning – as this is the definition of "preaching". Thus we see that Srila Prabhupada is indeed asking his disciples to continue doing what they were already doing in his presence – which was acting as *siksa* gurus.

GBC author contradicts himself

GBC: "Discussion about ritvik (for and against) among ISKCON's rank-and-file can hardly be found either in public forums or smaller discussion groups — either online or off the internet. These facts seem to indicate that the IRM's influence on ISKCON is waning."

IRM: The GBC author, however, has himself stated the exact opposite in his own online journal, regarding the influence of ritvik on ISKCON today:

"For ISKCON's incumbent leaders, they need to be more introspective about the reasons for the rise of the ritvik ideology and, more importantly, why it continues to persist [...] Even though the IRM and other non-IRM ritvikists have arrived at an incorrect explanation for the pervasive problem of fall-

en leaders, it is still an explanation. The IRM has one, ISKCON doesn't. Ritvikist explanations thus continue to fill ISKCON's explanatory vacuum. That is why ritvikism still persists within ISKCON and not simply outside of it in organizations like the IRM."

(Krishna Kirti Das, *Hare Krishna Cultural Journal*, April 9th, 2006)

GBC's false presentation of TFO

GBC: "The following excerpts from the paper known as The Final Order (TFO) summarise the position of the ritviks — specifically that of the IRM:

On July 9th 1977, four months before his physical departure, Srila Prabhupada set up a system of initiations employing the use of ritviks, or representatives of the acarya. Srila Prabhupada instructed that this 'officiating acarya' system was to be instituted immediately, and run from that time onwards, or 'henceforward' — (please see Appendices, p. 108). [...] Without such a counterinstruction, this letter must be seen as Srila Prabhupada's final instruction on initiation and should therefore be followed.⁵²

To summarise the ritvik position, they consider that (1) no one was qualified at the time of Srila Prabhupada's departure to accept disciples, (2) Srila Prabhupada was aware of this fact and therefore set up a managerial system whereby he would continue to accept disciples even after his passing away".

IRM: Points (1) and (2) are amazing 'straw man' arguments since the paper even quotes a passage from TFO, but this does not state anything even remotely like what the paper claims TFO states! Hence since the paper takes as its base this completely false summary of TFO, it is not surprising the GBC paper misrepresents TFO's position all the way through.

GBC's absent-mindedness

GBC: "This (ritvik) doctrine can be subdivided into arguments

that establish Srila Prabhupada's physical presence [...] But if we accept the ritvik line of thought, then we could not say that Srila Prabhupada passed away. There couldn't be any disappearance day ceremonies (since there was never any disappearance)."

IRM: Another one of a miasma of straw-man arguments to be found in the GBC's submission. The IRM does not argue that Srila Prabhupada is physically present. In TFO we actually state that Srila Prabhupada is physically ABSENT, not physically present:

"It is accepted that many thousands of Srila Prabhupada's disciples are still benefiting from the process of diksa (even though their guru has been **physically absent** for nearly two decades)."

(TFO, page 54, emphasis added)

This is the conclusion to a section which again tries to argue that we are denying that Srila Prabhupada is physically absent, but as we stated earlier, TFO does accept that Srila Prabhupada is physically absent, and this section of the paper is therefore just one big straw-man argument. Rather, in TFO we actually quote Srila Prabhupada stating that physical presence is immaterial, and not that Srila Prabhupada himself has not left the planet:

"Physical presence is not important."

(Srila Prabhupada Room conversation, 6/10/77, Vrindavan)

"Physical presence is immaterial."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 19/1/67)

GBC jumps over itself

GBC: "ISKCON's leaders in dealing with the crisis of spiritual masters falling down consulted the writings of previous acaryas wherein it is explicitly described what one should do if his or her spiritual master deviates. The ritviks, however, believe it is wrong to consult the writings of

previous acaryas wherever these writings cannot be corroborated with something Srila Prabhupada himself has said".

IRM: The GBC state the same in one of their publications:

"...we must see the previous acaryas through Prabhupada. We cannot jump over Prabhupada and then look back at him through the eyes of previous acaryas."

(Our Original Position, p. 163, GBC Press)

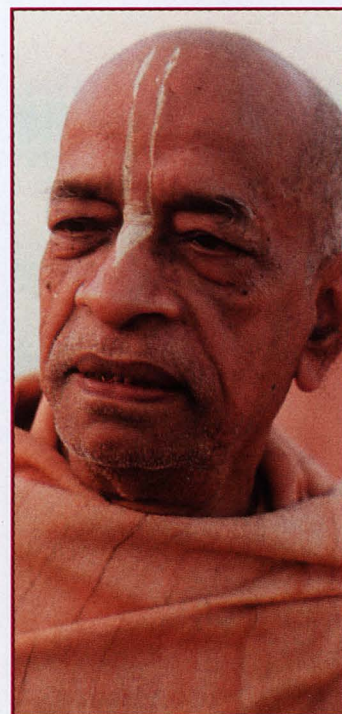
The paper then devotes considerable time to trying to demonstrate that we should consult the works of the previous acaryas, which is an irrelevant subject since the debate is about whether or not Srila Prabhupada gave instructions for the termination of the ritvik system in ISKCON. This undue emphasis on writings other than those of Srila Prabhupada, is another sign that the GBC actually have no evidence from Srila Prabhupada to put forward to terminate the ritvik system as set up by Srila Prabhupada.

GBC author's "deep and meaningful relationship"

GBC: "There are currently many of Srila Prabhupada's grand-disciples having deep and meaningful relationships with their spiritual masters, who are disciples of Srila Prabhupada."

IRM: It is ironic to note, therefore, that the very author of this paper is not one of these persons, since he claims his own spiritual master, HH Hridayananda Das Goswami, does not even understand such a basic point as what constitutes 'illicit sex', the prohibition of which is one of the fundamental regulative principles of Krishna consciousness; and furthermore has something of a dysfunctional relationship with both himself and the GBC:

"(HH Hridayananda Goswami) gives a decidedly different definition of illicit sex than what can reasonably be considered Srila Prabhupada's view of illicit sex [...] Certainly, Maharaja's essay great-



His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada: His position is challenged by the GBC

ly augments the confusion that the GBC attempted to dispel [...] H.H. Hridayananda das Goswami Acaryadeva is the spiritual master of the author of this article. While on the vast majority of issues in Krishna Consciousness we are in complete agreement, the author of this article, Krishna-kirti das, is nevertheless opposed to some of the ideas he expresses in his essay referred to herein. The author of this article offers his obeisances at the feet of Srila Acaryadeva and hopes that one day their disagreement on these issues will be amicably settled."

(Krishna Kirti Das, *Hare Krishna Cultural Journal*, June 16th, 2006)

If this constitutes a "deep and meaningful relationship" with his guru, we'd hate to think what a discordant relationship would look like!

The whole book, and the full rebuttal to the GBC's submission can be viewed at:

www.iskconirm.com/krishnakirti.pdf

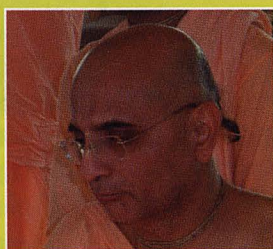
More confessions on the ISKCON guru hoax

As we have consistently pointed out in the pages of *BTP*, the only possible way one could claim to be an initiating guru in ISKCON is if Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON's real Guru, had authorised one or more successors. This authorisation by the bona fide spiritual master is not optional – it is a *sastric* (scriptural) injunction: **“One should take initiation from a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession, who is authorised by his predecessor spiritual master. This is called *diksa-vidhana*.”**

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 4.8.54, purport)

Below we see three more confessions that the creation of *diksa* (initiating) gurus in ISKCON to replace Srila Prabhupada was not based on any order from Srila Prabhupada. Rather, four separate reasons are given as to how these gurus came into being:

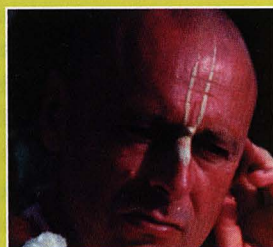
- 1) Other unauthorised gurus fell down.
- 2) The opportunity was there to take disciples.
- 3) A lot of pressure was applied to become a guru.
- 4) The GBC body decided that Srila Prabhupada should be replaced.



Bhakti Caru Swami became guru after “a lot of pressure”

“I became a spiritual master after some of my very senior and very qualified god brothers fell down. Therefore, I didn't have any illusion that I was a pure devotee and I was infallible. Initially I didn't want to take up this very grave responsibility of becoming a spiritual master, but since quite a few devotees were very determined to take initiation from me and were waiting for a long time, and since there was a lot of pressure from some of my senior god-brothers also, I accepted that responsibility.”

(Bhakti Caru Swami, 16/2/2002, PAMHO Text 5992588)



Sivarama Swami became guru after pressure from a girl

“At this time I also was asked to take up the role of initiating spiritual master. I didn't consider that this would be very conducive to my personal spiritual life and I was satisfied for others to do that service and that I would stay in the role of *sannyasi*, a preacher, *siksa* guru, GBC, and probably it was at Gaurangi's (at the time a young female devotee, and now a disciple) repeated prompting that ultimately I began to think seriously of that service and took it up.”

(Sivarama Swami, Podcast, 4/10/06)



They became guru after the GBC decided

“Soon after Prabhupada's departure, the collective GBC announced that some of Prabhupada's senior men would continue the lineage by initiating new disciples of their own. Naturally, TKG, as one of Prabhupada's nearest and dearest servants, would be one of these people.”

(Satyaraja Das, Associate Editor, *Back To Godhead*, July/Aug 2002, p. 25)

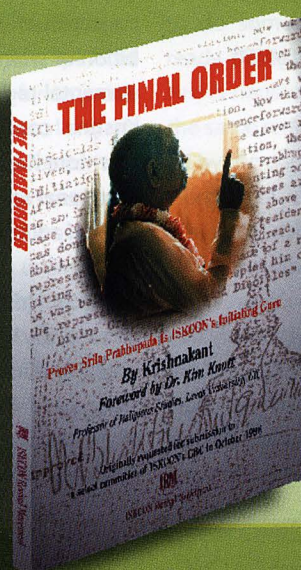
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From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK